

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-15 A-01 DHA-02 ORM-02 IO-14 AID-05 EUR-12
ERDA-07 ACDA-10 OES-07 CU-04 FEAE-00 NRC-07
SCSE-00 SCA-01 /143 W
-----101731Z 021113 /40

R 101340Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
TO SECSTATE WASDC 2146
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
INFO AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO
AMCONSUL SAO PAULO

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 BRASILIA 4742

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OVIP BR (CARTER, ROSALYNN)
SUBJECT: WRAP UP OF PRESS REACTION TO VISIT

1. SUMMARY: BRAZILIAN PRESS SO FAR HAS GENERALLY RATED MRS. CARTER'S VISIT TO BRAZIL AS MODERATELY SUCCESSFUL, THOUGH SOME NEWSPAPERS CLAIMED THAT VISIT HAD HAD ITS EMBARRASSING MOMENTS AND ACTUALLY ACCOMPLISHED LITTLE OF CONCRETE VALUE. MUCH COVERAGE HAS CENTERED ON US CONCERN WITH HUMAN RIGHTS AS EXPRESSED BY BOTH FIRST LADY AND ASSISTANT SECRETARY TODMAN. GOVERNMENT SOURCES REPORTED AS CLAIMING GOOD RESULTS FROM FIRST LADY'S TALKS WITH GEISEL, PARTICULARLY ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND NUCLEAR QUESTIONS. PROMINENT PLAY WAS ALSO GIVEN TO FOREIGN MINISTER SILVEIRA'S ASSERTIONS THAT MRS. CARTER HAD ASSURED HIM THAT MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING REMAINS IN EFFECT, BUT PAPERS NOTED THAT NO SUCH PUBLIC REAFFIRMATION WAS FORTHCOMING FROM AMERICAN DELEGATION. PRESS ALSO PICKED UP SILVEIRA'S TONING DOWN OF CLAIMS HE MADE IN PARIS AFTER MEETING WITH VANCE THAT USG PRESSURE AGAINST GOB-FRG NUCLEAR ACCORD HAD CEASED.
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END SUMMARY.

2. FONMIN SILVEIRA, AT POST-DEPARTURE AIRBASE PRESS CONFERENCE, REITERATED THAT MRS. CARTER VISIT HAS SUBSTANTIVE AS WELL AS GOOD-WILL CHARACTER AND DESCRIBED IT AS "A SINGULAR AND VERY IMPORTANT VISIT, DESPITE THERE NOT HAVING BEEN ANY AGREEMENTS TO SIGN," LATER

SAYING THAT "IT WAS A VISIT OF GOOD WILL AND INFORMATION." SILVEIRA TOOK FIRST POSSIBLE OPPORTUNITY TO DECLARE THAT MRS. CARTER HAD REAFFIRMED USG COMMITMENT TO MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING, AND STATED THAT PRESIDENT CARTER INTENDS SHORTLY TO ACTIVATE WORKING GROUPS. INFLUENTIAL JORNAL DO BRASIL ARTICLE NOTED THAT NO MEMBER OF AMERICAN PARTY HAD PUBLICLY STATED OR CONFIRMED USG DESIRE TO MAINTAIN MOU IN FORCE, ADDING THAT SAME HAD BEEN THE CASE IN MAY WHEN SILVEIRA MADE SIMILAR STATEMENT AFTER MEETING WITH SECRETARY VANCE IN PARIS. PAPER COMMENTED THAT SILVEIRA IS PROFITING FROM USG SILENCE, AS IT ALLOWS HIM TO DESCRIBE RECENT VISITS BY CHRISTOPHER, TODMAN AND NOW MRS. CARTER AS FALLING WITHIN SPHERE OF HIGH-LEVEL MEETINGS ENVISAGED BY MOU.

3. WITHOUT MAKING SPECIFIC REFERENCE TO DISCUSSIONS WITH MRS. CARTER, SILVEIRA TOOK OPPORTUNITY TO REAFFIRM BRAZILIAN COMMITMENT TO FRG-GOB NUCLEAR ACCORD. HE EXPRESSED SATISFACTION THAT VISIT HAD PROVIDED GOB WITH CHANCE TO EXPRESS ITS VIEW-POINT ON A NUMBER OF MATTERS, BUT EMPHASIZED THAT BRAZILIANS MUST MAINTAIN THEIR OWN IDEALS AND PRIORITIES. JORNAL NOTED THAT SILVEIRA WAS MUCH LESS EMPHATIC ON NUCLEAR ACCORD THAN HE WAS IN MAY, WHEN HE DECLARED IN PARIS THAT THERE WERE NO LONGER PRESSURES AGAINST IT. AT WEDNESDAY PRESS CONFERENCE. HE

CONFINED HIMSELF TO SAYING THAT BRAZIL WOULD NOT CHANGE ITS POSITION BUT THAT HE COULD NOT SPEAK FOR OTHER COUNTRIES.

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4. SILVEIRA DENIED THAT STUDENTS LETTER GIVEN TODMAN WAS TOPIC OF DISCUSSION BETWEEN MRS. CARTER AND GOB OFFICIALS AND MINIMIZED ITS IMPORTANCE. "IT WOULD BE THE SAME," HE SAID, "AS IF WE WERE TO ATTRIBUTE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE INCIDENT IN CHICAGO, WHERE TWO PUERTO RICANS WERE KILLED AND ALMOST 200 WOUNDED, TO THE US GOVERNMENT," AND CONTINUED THAT EVEN IF THE GOB WERE TO RECEIVE AN APPEAL FROM THE PERSONS INVOLVED IN THE CHICAGO INCIDENT, IT WOULD NEVER IMAGINE RAISING THE MATTER WITH THE USG. SILVEIRA'S DENIAL THAT ANY INVITATION HAD BEEN EXTENDED PRESIDENT GEISEL TO VISIT THE US, AS WITH TODMAN'S SIMILAR DENIAL, WAS BURIED IN THE LAST PARAGRAPHS OF THE SEVERAL NEWSPAPER STORIES THAT MENTIONED IT.

5. CITING GOVERNMENT SOURCES, JORNAL DE BRASILIA REPORTED THAT GOVERNMENT CONSIDERED RESULTS OF CARTER-GEISEL CONVERSATION "GOOD", PARTICULARLY WITH RESPECT TO HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE NUCLEAR AGREEMENT. ARTICLE NOTED

THAT GOVERNMENT SOURCES SAID MRS. CARTER RECEIVED FROM GEISEL EXPLANATION THAT GOB, WITH REGARD TO HUMAN RIGHTS, IS TRYING TO IMPROVE LIVING STANDARDS, ADDING THAT BRAZIL SHARES PRESIDENT CARTER'S CONCERNS FOR HUMAN RIGHTS BUT DIFFERS ON HOW THE PROBLEM SHOULD BE FACED IN DIFFERENT COUNTRIES ACCORDING TO THE SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES OF EACH. THE DISCUSSIONS OF NUCLEAR MATTERS, JORNAL ADDED, WHICH DID NOT RECEIVE THE SAME INTENSITY OF DISCUSSION AS HUMAN RIGHTS, WILL IN NO WAY CHANGE THE GOB'S NUCLEAR POLICY WHICH SEEKS THE PEACEFUL USE OF ATOMIC ENERGY.

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6. HUMAN RIGHTS ASPECT OF VISIT RECEIVED CONSIDERABLE ATTENTION FROM FAVORABLY-MINDED JOURNALS: LIBERAL FOLHA DE SAO PAULO FRONT-PAGES PICTURE OF MRS. CARTER WITH TWO AMERICAN MISSIONARIES IN RECIFE, AS DID JORNAL DO BRASIL; AND NATIONAL EVENING TELEVISION NEWS BROADCAST CONTAINED CLIP OF HER MEETING TWO MISSIONARIES. O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO LED THURSDAY COVERAGE WITH TODMAN STATEMENT THAT "BRAZIL AND THE US ARE IN AGREEMENT ON THE OBJECTIVES OF HUMAN RIGHTS BUT STILL DIFFER ON THE SPEED AND MANNER (TO BE USED) IN IMPLEMENTING THOSE RIGHTS."

7. ANOTHER ESTADO ARTICLE MADE MUCH OF SUPPOSED RELIEF IN BRASILIA AFTER CARTER LEFT ON WEDNESDAY, SAYING THAT HER DEPARTURE CLOSED "THE OFFICIAL PART OF A VISIT

SPRINKLED WITH EMBARRASSING INCIDENTS, DESPITE THE CALM AND COMPOSURE OF THE OFFICIAL CONTACTS. IN TERMS OF EXTERNAL POLITICS AND BILATERAL RELATIONS, THE VISIT ADDED ALMOST NOTHING." O ESTADO NOTED THAT VISIT HAD BENEFICIAL SIDE-EFFECT FOR GOB, COMING AT A MOMENT OF "INTERNAL CRISIS" AND PROVIDING A PAUSE THAT WOULD ALLOW

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THE STUDENT, MILITARY AND POLITICAL SECTORS OF THE POPULATION TO CALM DOWN. CONSERVATIVE, PRO-GOVERNMENT O GLOBO AND JORNAL DE BRASILIA BOTH EMPHASIZED SATISFACTORY CONCLUSION OF TALKS FROM GOB VIEW-POINT, INDICATING THAT GOB POSITIONS OF NUCLEAR ACCORD AND HUMAN RIGHTS REMAINED UNALTERED. O GLOBO ALSO PROVIDED PRIME DISPLAY TO PASTOR COMMENT THAT "NO NEGATIVE ASPECT WAS FOUND (BY CARTER PARTY) DURING THE VISIT TO BRAZIL."

8. IN EDITORIAL REACTION, RIO'S JORNAL DO BRASIL MAINTAINED CRITICAL ATTITUDE TOWARD FONMIN SILVEIRA'S CONDUCT DURING VISIT. THE PAPER'S WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT WROTE THAT SILVEIRA'S KISS ON THE HAND UPON MRS. CARTER'S ARRIVAL WAS SEEN IN THE US AS MORE OF A SUBSERVIENT THAN ELEGANT GESTURE. JORNAL ALSO CRITICIZED FONMIN FOR EMOTIONALISM IN HIS COMPARISON OF IMPROPIETY OF HYPOTHETICAL US INTEREST IN STUDENTS LETTER PRESENTED TODMAN WITH SIMILARLY IMPROPER AND HYPOTHETICAL BRAZILIAN INTEREST IN CHICAGO INCIDENT. PAPER CRITICIZED THE STUDENTS FOR PRESENTING LETTER, CALLING IT A "PURE MANIFESTATION OF COLONIAL SUBMISSION" BUT SAID THAT THEY, BUT NOT SILVEIRA, COULD BE FORGIVEN FOR SUCH INGENUOUSNESS. JORNAL REPRIMANDED SILVEIRA FOR MAKING COMMENTS THAT "NOT ONLY DO NOT CONTRIBUTE TO CLARIFYING ANY DOUBTS, BUT IN FACT OBSCURE THE ACTUAL QUESTIONM."

9. O ESTADO COMMENTED IN EDITORIAL REACTION TO THE TRIP THAT WHILE IT IS STILL TO EARLY TO FULLY ASSESS THE RESULTS OF MRS. CARTER'S CONVERSATIONS WITH THE GOB, IT IS CLEAR THAT DIFFICULTIES AND DIFFERENCES OF OPINION AROSE DURING THE TALKS WITH SILVEIRA. O ESTADO MINIMIZED THE IMPORT OF THE SHOVING INCIDENT DURING THE VISIT TO THE SENATE AND THE DELIVERY OF THE STUDENTS LETTER TO TODMAN, SAYING THAT THE VISIT'S REALLY DIFFICULT MOMENTS UNDOUBTEDLY TOOK PLACE "DURING THE DISCUSSION BETWEEN THE PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE US PRESIDENT AND THE

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BRAZILIAN CHANCELLOR, WHEN BOTH INTERLOCUTORS FIRMLY
DEFENDED THEIR VIEWPOINTS, WHICH DID NOT COINCIDE."
LAMENTING THAT THE NINETY (SIC) MINUTE INTERVIEW WITH PRESIDENT
GEISEL WAS NOT SUFFICIENT FOR A FULL DISCUSSION OF ALL ITEMS
ON THE AGENDA, THE PAPER ADDED THAT FROM THE AMERICAN PERSPECTIVE,
"LITTLE CAN BE SAID OVER THE EVENTUAL POSITIVE EFFECTS OF THE
VISIT ON GOB-US RELATIONS." THE MEETING SERVED THE
BRAZILIANS, HOWEVER, ACCORDING TO THE SAME EDITORIAL'S
IMPLICATIONS, BY PROVIDING A FORUM FOR THE GOB TO
DEMONSTRATE ITS FIRMNESS AND RESOLVE WITH REGARD TO
WHAT IT CONSIDERS INTERNAL MATTERS.
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